

Appl. No. 09/248,436  
Ammdt. dated December 4, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2003

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, all rejected claims 1-30, 54 and 55 have been cancelled without prejudice, and all allowed Claims 31-53 and 56-59 have been retained without change. Since there are no remaining issues, it is Applicant's understanding that all requirements for allowance of the pending claims have been met.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

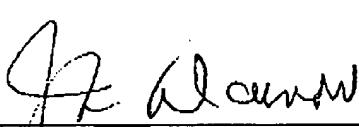
**Request for Extension of Time**

Applicants hereby request an extension of time to December 4, 2003 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Our check for the \$475.00 fee is enclosed. If any additional fee is required for such a Request for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and not submitted herewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of the undersigned attorneys, Account No. 01-1785; any refund should be credited to the same account. One copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Dated: New York, New York  
December 4, 2003